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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,432	09/22/2003	Hideaki Naruse	Q77419	6506

23373 7590 10/18/2006
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WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, CAMIE S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1774

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006 ,

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/665,432	Applicant(s) NARUSE ET AL.	
	Examiner Camie S. Thompson	Art Unit 1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment filed September 5, 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-12 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-12 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Examiner regrets the untimely reopening of prosecution.
2. Applicant's amendment and accompanying remarks filed September 5, 2006 are acknowledged.
3. Examiner acknowledges amended claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16 and 18-19.
4. The rejection of claims 1-7, 9-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawasumi et al., U.S. Patent Number 4,810,734 is overcome by applicant's amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lan et al., U.S. Pre Grant Publication 2001/0025076.

Lan discloses intercalated layered materials comprising a polymer matrix and a layered material such as phyllosilicates. Paragraph 0030 of the reference discloses that the matrix polymer can be

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a thermoplastic or thermosetting polymer. Additionally, paragraph 0033 of the reference discloses that the polymer reinforcement and gas barrier. It was disclosed in paragraphs 0040-0042 of the Lan reference that the organoclays are straight or branched chain alkyl-substituted with single charged-ammonium or phosphonium ions. Paragraph 0083 of the reference discloses that the matrix can be a polycarbonate or olefin metathesis polymer such as poly(propylene). Paragraph 0105 of the Lan reference discloses that the matrix polymer/intercalate composite materials can be used for films and have excellent gas barrier qualities.

7. Claims 1-3 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaminsky et al., U. S. Patent Number 6,844,047.

Kaminsky discloses an optical element such as a liquid crystal display or imaging media that comprises a substrate wherein the substrate comprises a layered material in a polymeric binder (see reference claim 1). Additionally, the reference discloses that the intercalated material is a smectite clay and the polymer can be a polyester or polycarbonate (see reference claim 27-29).

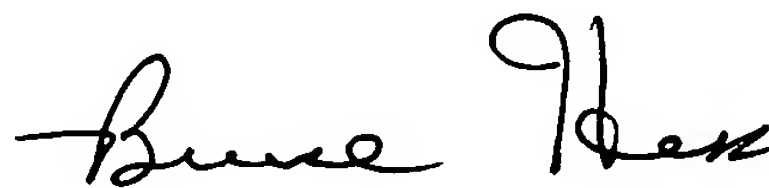
Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to the instant claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Camie S. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1530. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena L Dye, can be reached at (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the Group is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" and the last name "Hess" clearly distinguishable.

BRUCE H. HESS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300